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# AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

APRIL, 1871.

## *A LEARNED MURDERER.*

THE trial of E. H. Ruloff which was concluded at Binghamton in the month of January, will rank as one of the most remarkable in the annals of crime. The wide-spread interest which it has excited was not due merely to the peculiar atrocity of the deed for which the man was arraigned—for Heaven knows! murder is frequent enough in our days of boasted civilization and progress—nor was it owing to the intricacy and complexity in the chain of evidence, but chiefly to the personal characteristics of the accused. Here is a man of great philological pretensions, undeniably endowed with extraordinary abilities, possessed of varied acquirements, and who has, with an almost morbid activity, collected an immense mass of information in various branches of learning, yet a being heartless, soulless, a perfect Mephistopheles, who has gone through a long and checkered career of black and unredeemed villainy.

It would be idle to attempt a solution of the psychological problem which this trial presents. We have gleaned from the different reports furnished at the time a few striking observations and facts which deserve being reproduced here, as setting forth the astounding characteristics and personal traits of this modern Eugene Aram.

In respect to Ruloff's remarkable powers of memory and analysis, Prof. Seelye of Amherst College (who was a student

of theology at Auburn when Ruloff was serving his term in the State prison there, and thus became acquainted with him) gives a signal instance. Prof. Seelye had with him on one of his visits to the prison, where he taught a Sunday-school class, a copy of Taylor Lewis's book "Plato Contra Atheos," containing Plato's famous argument for the existence of a God, translated into English. Ruloff desired to borrow the book, and did so. On returning it, he had written on loose leaves, here and there, criticisms on the translation and on the argument of the original, in which he had cited from memory, as is believed, many pages in Greek from Herodotus, Thucydides, Anacreon, Homer, and other authors, usually with great correctness and pertinence. The whole was done by him in his cell, yet it was a piece of scholarly work, such as few professors could excel writing amid the resources of their well-equipped libraries. In point of penmanship it was exquisite and like a finished engraving.

In the Binghamton *Republican*, of Jan. 21, appears a remarkable letter, in which the writer—a distinguished and well-known lawyer, Mr. A. B. Richmond, of Meadville, Pa.—states that, about twelve years ago, Ruloff, under the assumed name of James Nelson, came to his office with the view of obtaining an agency for selling a patent machine invented by Mr. Richmond. "James Nelson," at that time pursued for burglary, was dressed in cheap, plain garments, looking like a farmer. "He had a face," the writer says, "which once seen, could never be forgotten. I saw from the tone of his voice that he was evidently a gentleman of culture and education. I showed him the machine, and asked him if he could construct a model. 'Yes,' said he, 'I am a fine mechanic.' We went into the collection-room, and first came to a case containing marine shells. The shells had been lying on cards, and some visitors who had been examining them had transposed some. 'Nelson' immediately stopped and called my attention to the fact, saying: 'Mr. Richmond, that is certainly not correct. That shell is not correctly labelled. That is surely not *Spondylus Spinosus*, but the *Argonauta*.' I found, upon further conversation, that he was perfectly familiar with the science of conchology, and equally well acquainted with mineralogy. My astonishment

increased when a little further along, he picked up the skull of an Indian that had been found on a Western battle-field, and remarked: 'Ah! that man received a terrible blow on the right *parietal* bone. See, it has fractured the temporal bone and *zygomatic process*.' He further remarked: 'He must have been a man of considerable age, as the *lambdoidal suture* is almost obliterated.' Upon further conversation with him I found that he was a fine anatomist. We passed then to the case of insects, and he proved well acquainted with entomology, naming the insects in my collection as readily as I could. By this time my surprise was unbounded, as I had had many learned men visit my collection, but never found one that seemed to understand so well *all* the sciences connected with the objects in my museum. 'Nelson' passed round the collection, and repeated a quotation in Latin, with which, by mere chance, I happened to be familiar. Then he repeated a sentence in Greek. I discovered that he was evidently trying to exhibit his best phases intellectually, and remarked to him that it was something unusual to find a visitor so well acquainted with the sciences and languages. He then took from his pocket a certificate from the late Rev. Dr. Barker, President of Alleghany College, in which he stated that he had examined Mr. James Nelson in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French and German, and that he took pleasure in testifying 'that he had found him one of the best linguists it was ever his good fortune to meet.' We then passed into the laboratory, where I found him perfectly familiar with all the tests for detecting poisons, and apparently as much so with my galvanic, electrical, magnetic and chemical apparatus, as I was myself, or even more so." In another portion of Mr. Richmond's letter it is stated that Nelson (always working at night) "constructed a beautiful model, which was, in the end, exquisitely carved and ornamented."

Without vouching for the accuracy of the above extracts from Mr. Richmond's letter, and conceding that his statements may be somewhat overdrawn, they certainly go far to prove that Ruloff's linguistic and scientific attainments were of no mean order.

Ruloff's conduct of his defense, both at his trial in 1843, when he was arraigned for the murder of his wife and child,

and the one concluded in January of the present year, was marked by a singular intellectual delight and an impersonal interest, as if he felt simply the advocate's pride in his legal acumen. He received his sentence not with defiance, but with a cool indifference, an amused smile at the judge's advice to prepare for a future life, and a laugh with his counsel as he sat down. The statement of his religious belief which Ruloff gave to Prof. Seelye many years ago, was a curious mixture of Greek Pantheism and modern materialism. He did not then, any more than he does now, appear to have any moral misgivings as to his course of life, but regarded himself as a person misunderstood and injured by society.

But it would seem that mentally he was yet more errant than morally. He seemed fully endowed with the pride of intellect and believed in the high value of his life-work, a *Treatise on Language*. This "Method in the Formation of Language" he had pressed on the attention of literary and scientific men, personally and by letter, until he was voted a fearful bore. He wanted to sell it to the philological convention at Poughkeepsie, a year ago last July, for the mere bagatelle of half a million of dollars. In discussing his theory, he seemed on the verge of maniacal enthusiasm. In a communication to the *Binghamton Leader*, dated January 16th, Ruloff says: "Strange as it may seem, no man this day upon God's earth has lived with a higher object than myself, and few have accomplished a more desirable result. Though laboring under every disadvantage, I have steadily persisted, and even now a few words may be said by way of insuring success to the work upon which my health, my strength, and all the best energies of my life have been expended, that is, my work upon 'Method in the Formation of Language.' That work may now have to be published without being completed. It contains, in the form of a regular treatise, most of the principles connected with the formation of methodical language." If we may judge from some specimens, which Ruloff gives in the *Leader*, his theory is, indeed, incoherent and unintelligible. Nevertheless, his illustrations show sound scholarship, patient investigation, and a wide range of reading. He can hardly be set down as a superficial thinker or scholar, though his conclusions are often far astray and absurd. From some additional



samples of his "great work," which were subsequently given to the *Leader*, we must infer that it is a perplexing mixture of strength and weakness. It appears that according to his root theory all languages own one central origin, the words of one tongue being found in others, either spelled backward or altered by the priests in some conventional manner.

It will, indeed, be a startling discovery for modern philologists, to learn that their theory of an original formation for all the European languages is a grossly erroneous one, and that the true explanation of the growth of words is "that the priests of different countries formed, for their own purpose, separate tongues," and that "each took for special purposes, within his own language, some particular form of root, and manipulated that form systematically in the production of nearly related words." This astounding theory does not explain under what forms men conveyed their thoughts previous to this priestly *hocus pocus*, and in what way this powerful and learned caste induced the plain, practical people of the lower classes to attach any intelligible meaning to their arbitrary combinations. The formidable problem of how men reached that advanced stage of society necessary to the existence of so learned and ingenious a priesthood without first having a well-defined language, is left equally without elucidation.

In short, it is quite evident from the few fragments of the "great work" which have been thus far vouchsafed to an inquiring world, that the author was a much better murderer than philologist.

It seems a piece of poetic justice that the very work on which Rulloff bases his hollow pretensions as a profound scholar should have been the chief instrument in his final ruin, for his manuscript was one of the proofs that established his identity. A newspaper cutting, found in his desk at his quiet retreat in New York, contained part of an article on a special subject, whose other portion was contained in a whole paper in one of the burglars' valises abandoned in Binghamton.

In fine, without resorting to the latest legal fiction, according to which "no criminal can claim moral sanity," for "otherwise he would be no criminal," it is hardly possible

to resist the query, Was this man sane? There seems to be enough in the felon's history to make out a very plausible plea of insanity. His knowledge of the criminal code was such that he often, under assumed names, appeared as counsel for men charged with crimes which he himself had planned, and he generally succeeded in managing their case so well that he obtained their acquittal. It cannot be doubted that if, at the last trial, he had not been his own attorney, the plea of insanity might, and probably would have been successfully advanced.

The strange parallelism between the career of Rulloff and that of another felon who expiated his crime more than a century ago, is so striking that we do not wonder that Rulloff has been dubbed the modern Eugene Aram. Like the hero of Bulwer's "Strange Story," Rulloff was or claimed to be a philologist, was learned in law, and conducted his own defense when on trial for life. In him as well as in the Yorkshire usher, criminal tendencies were offset by an abstract and earnest devotion to study. A student through instinct, he became a felon by choice. His whole essence concentrated itself in the unwarmed, uncongenial arrogance of intellect. A heartless villain with no compunction, no conscience, he maintained a decorous outward conduct as a matter of policy. During his residence in jail, where he served out a term of ten years, he so thoroughly won the confidence of the jailor and his wife, that their son was put under his tutelage. This boy, innocent and eager for instruction, Rulloff trained into the felon Jarvis, who met an ignominious death in the Chenango river on the night of the Binghamton burglary and murder.

Rulloff, the unsuspected "teacher of languages," who is now known to have caused, directly and indirectly, the death of seven persons (including himself) seems, as one reporter aptly remarks in reviewing his history, to have read Goethe's Faust, and made the successful effort of combining in one person the three characters of Faust, Wagner, and Mephistopheles.

F. H.

*Stockbridge, Mass., February, 1871.*

*WHAT KNOWLEDGE IS OF MOST WORTH?*

## III.

OUR first step must obviously be to classify, in the order of their importance, the leading kinds of activity which constitute human life. They may be naturally arranged into:—1. Those activities which directly minister to self-preservation; 2. Those activities which, by securing the necessities of life, indirectly minister to self-preservation; 3. Those activities which have for their end the rearing and discipline of offspring; 4. Those activities which are involved in the maintenance of proper social and political relations; 5. Those miscellaneous activities which make up the leisure part of life, devoted to the gratification of the tastes and feelings.

That these stand in something like their true order of subordination, it needs no long consideration to show. The actions and precautions by which, from moment to moment, we secure personal safety, must clearly take precedence of all others. Could there be a man, ignorant as an infant of all surrounding objects and movements, or how to guide himself among them, he would pretty certainly lose his life the first time he went into the street: notwithstanding any amount of learning he might have on other matters. And as entire ignorance in all other directions would be less promptly fatal than entire ignorance in this direction, it must be admitted that knowledge immediately conducive to self-preservation, is of primary importance.

That next after direct self-preservation comes the indirect self-preservation, which consists in acquiring the means of living, none will question. That a man's industrial functions must be considered before his parental ones, is manifest from the fact that, speaking generally, the discharge of the parental functions is made possible only by the previous discharge of the industrial ones. The power of self-maintenance necessarily preceding the power of maintaining offspring, it follows that knowledge needful for self-maintenance has stronger claims than knowledge needful for family welfare—is second in value to none save knowledge needful for immediate self-preservation.

As the family comes before the State in order of time—as the bringing up of children is possible before the State exists, or when it has ceased to be, whereas the State is rendered possible only by the bringing up of children; it follows that the duties of the parent demand closer attention than those of the citizen. Or, to use a further argument—since the goodness of a society ultimately depends on the nature of its citizens; and since the nature of its citizens is more modifiable by early training than by any thing else; we must conclude that the welfare of the family underlies the welfare of society. And hence knowledge directly conducing to the first, must take precedence of knowledge directly conducing to the last.

Those various forms of pleasurable occupation which fill up the leisure left by graver occupations—the enjoyments of music, poetry, painting, etc.—manifestly imply a pre-existing society. Not only is a considerable development of them impossible without a long-established social union; but their very subject-matter consists in great part of social sentiments and sympathies. Not only does society supply the conditions to their growth; but also the ideas and sentiments they express. And, consequently, that part of human conduct which constitutes good citizenship is of more moment than that which goes out in accomplishments or exercise of the tastes; and, in education, preparation for the one must rank before preparation for the other.

Such then, we repeat, is something like the rational order of subordination:—That education which prepares for direct self-preservation; that which prepares for indirect self-preservation; that which prepares for parenthood; that which prepares for citizenship; that which prepares for the miscellaneous refinements of life. We do not mean to say that these divisions are definitely separable. We do not deny that they are intricately entangled with each other in such way that there can be no training for any that is not in some measure a training for all. Nor do we question that of each division there are portions more important than certain portions of the preceding divisions: that, for instance, a man of much skill in business but little other faculty, may fall further below the standard of complete

living than one of but moderate power of acquiring money but great judgment as a parent ; or that exhaustive information bearing on right social action, joined with entire want of general culture in literature and the fine arts, is less desirable than a more moderate share of the one joined with some of the other. But after making all qualifications, there still remain these broadly-marked divisions ; and it still continues substantially true that these divisions subordinate one another in the foregoing order, because the corresponding divisions of life make one another *possible* in that order.

Of course the ideal of education is—complete preparation in all these divisions. But failing this ideal, as in our phase of civilization every one must do more or less, the aim should be to maintain a *due proportion* between the degrees of preparation in each. Not exhaustive cultivation in any one, supremely important though it may be—not even an exclusive attention to the two, three, or four divisions of greatest importance ; but an attention to all,—greatest where the value is greatest, less where the value is less, least where the value is least. For the average man (not to forget the cases in which peculiar aptitude for some one department of knowledge rightly makes that one the bread-winning occupation)—for the average man, we say, the desideratum is, a training that approaches nearest to perfection in the things which most subserve complete living, and falls more and more below perfection in the things that have more and more remote bearings on complete living.

In regulating education by this standard, there are some general considerations that should be ever present to us. The worth of any kind of culture, as aiding complete living, may be either necessary or more or less contingent. There is knowledge of intrinsic value ; knowledge of quasi-intrinsic value ; and knowledge of conventional value. Such facts as that sensations of numbness and tingling commonly precede paralysis, that the resistance of water to a body moving through it varies as the square of the velocity, that chlorine is a disinfectant,—these, and the truths of Science in general, are of intrinsic value : they will bear on human conduct ten thousand years hence as they do now. The

extra knowledge of our own language, which is given by an acquaintance with Latin and Greek, may be considered to have a value that is quasi-intrinsic: it must exist for us and for other races whose languages owe much to these sources; but will last only as long as our languages last. While that kind of information which, in our schools, usurps the name History—the mere tissue of names and dates and dead unmeaning events—has a conventional value only: it has not the remotest bearing upon any of our actions; and is of use only for the avoidance of those unpleasant criticisms which current opinion passes upon its absence. Of course, as those facts which concern all mankind throughout all time must be held of greater moment than those which concern only a portion of them during a limited era, and of far greater moment than those which concern only a portion of them during the continuance of a fashion; it follows that in a rational estimate, knowledge of intrinsic worth must, other things equal, take precedence of knowledge that is of quasi-intrinsic or conventional worth.

One further preliminary. Acquirement of every kind has two values—value as *knowledge* and value as *discipline*. Besides its use for guidance in conduct, the acquisition of each order of facts has also its use as mental exercise; and its effects as a preparative for complete living have to be considered under both these heads.

These, then, are the general ideas with which we must set out in discussing a *curriculum*:—Life as divided into several kinds of activity of successively decreasing importance; the worth of each order of facts as regulating these several kinds of activity, intrinsically, quasi-intrinsically, and conventionally; and their regulative influences estimated both as knowledge and discipline.—*Herbert Spencer*.

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THE new educational laws of England have directed public attention to text-books. One writer declares that "it is hardly an exaggeration to say that there does not exist such a thing as a good English grammar."

*EMINENT TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS  
DECEASED IN 1870.*

**SEELY, JOSEPH**, a veteran teacher of New York, died in that city in September, 1870, aged 97 years. He was a native of Connecticut, but removed to New York city in early manhood and taught there for nearly sixty years.

**SHANAHAN, Rev. JOHN**, a Roman Catholic clergyman, a native of Kilkenny, Ireland, who had also been a missionary, and for some years a professor in the Roman Catholic College at Emmetsburg, Maryland, died in New York city, August 8, 1870, aged 78 years. He was a very accomplished writer and rhetorician, and his reputation as a teacher of rhetoric and belles-lettres was very high. The present and late Archbishops of New York, Bishop Whalen, of Wheeling, and the late Bishop Fitzpatrick, of Boston, with many other eminent clergymen, were among his pupils.

**SIMPSON, Sir JAMES YOUNG, M.D., D.C.S.**, an eminent Scottish teacher, physician, author, and discoverer, died in Edinburgh, May 7, 1870, aged 59 years. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, graduating M.D. in 1832, was appointed obstetrical professor in the University in 1840, and continued to teach that branch of medical study till his death. He discovered the value of sulphuric ether and choloform as anæsthetics in accouchment, and was greatly honored for his success in their use. He was the author of several professional text-books and other works on educational subjects. He was made a baronet in 1866, and the same year received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from Oxford University.

**STEVENSON, Rev. PAUL EUGENE**, a Presbyterian clergyman, long engaged in teaching the classics, died in Paterson, N. J., March 17, 1870, aged 61 years. He was first led to teaching by the failure of his health as a preacher, but soon became enthusiastic in his work, for which his thorough and elegant scholarship and his remarkable tact in imparting instruction peculiarly fitted him.

**STONE, Rev. COLLINS**, an eminent teacher of the deaf and dumb, was killed by the collision of a locomotive with his



carriage, in Hartford, Conn., December 23, at the age of 58 years. He was a native of Canton, Conn.; born in 1812; graduated from Yale College in 1832; entered the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb at Hartford in 1833, and giving the best powers of a remarkably well-disciplined mind to the work of their instruction, constantly advanced in position till 1852, when he was appointed Principal of the "Ohio Institution for the Deaf and Dumb," at Columbus, Ohio. He conducted that institution with remarkable success till 1863, when on the resignation of Rev. W. W. Turner, he was elected Principal of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb at Hartford, the first and the most influential of all the institutions for deaf mutes in the country. Mr. Stone presided over this institution with singular ability till his sudden death. As a teacher of deaf mutes, Mr. Stone had few equals, and no superiors.

STÖVER, MARTIN LUTHER, Ph. D., LL.D., a professor, editor, author, and philanthropist, of Gettysburg, Penn., died in Philadelphia, July 22, aged 50 years. He was born at Germantown, Pa., February 17, 1820; graduated from Gettysburg in 1838; taught one year in Jefferson, Md., and in 1839 was called to a professorship, first, we believe, of Mathematics, and subsequently of the Latin language and Literature at Gettysburg. He was also for many years editor of the *Evangelical Quarterly Review*, the organ of the Lutheran Church, and has found time for the preparation of several able biographical works. He was very active in labors for the wounded during the late war.

SYME, JAMES, M.R. C.S., L. & E., an eminent Scottish professor, surgeon, and author, born in the County of Fife in 1799, died at Edinburgh, June 26, 1870, aged 71 years. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, and became pupil in surgery of the celebrated Liston. He studied surgery also in London, and was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons there. Returning to Edinburgh in 1822, he was associated as pupil and assistant with Liston for seven years longer, and in 1825 began to lecture on surgery with great success. He would have been elected professor at once, but declined to be a candidate in order not to wound the feelings of Liston. In 1833, he accepted

the professorship of Clinical Surgery, and the next year Liston went to London as professor. On the death of Liston, in 1847, Dr. Syme was called to succeed him as professor at London, but being treated rudely by the other professors, he resigned and returned to his professorship at Edinburgh, where he continued to teach till his death. He wrote numerous professional works of great ability, and had a very high reputation as an instructor, serving in that capacity for forty-five years.

THOMSON, Right Rev. EDWARD, M.D., D.D., LL.D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 1864, and previously for twenty-three years a teacher and college president, died at Wheeling, West Virginia, March 22, aged 60 years. Bishop Thomson was born in Portsea, England, in October 1810, emigrated to the United States in 1819, and settled in Wooster, Ohio, about 1822. He had an excellent academic education, studied medicine, and graduated M.D., at the University in Pennsylvania in 1829. He returned to Wooster, Ohio, to practice his profession, and formed an infidel club there. He was soon converted, joined the Methodist Church, and in 1833 began to preach. In 1836 he was located at Detroit, where his extraordinary eloquence drew great crowds to hear him. In 1837 he was called to the Principalship of the Norwalk (Ohio) Seminary, where he remained eight years. Elected editor of the *Ladies' Repository* by the General Conference in 1844, he was the next year chosen first President of the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, O., where he remained fifteen years, and made the University a leading institution among Western colleges. In 1860 he was called to the editorship of the *Christian Advocate* in New York, and in 1864 elected Bishop. His reputation both for learning and eloquence was deservedly very high. He was the author of four or five works of great literary merit. After his election as Bishop, he made an episcopal tour round the world.

VANGEROW, CHARLES ADOLPHE VON, J.U.D., a German jurist, law professor, and author, born in Scheffelbach, Electoral Hesse, June 5, 1808; died at Heidelberg, October 11, 1870, aged 62 years. Prof. Vangerow was educated at the University of Marbourg, became Doctor of Laws (J.U.D.)

in 1830, a Fellow of the University, and Adjunct Professor. In 1837 he was made a full professor at Marbourg, and in 1840, called to the Chair of Roman Law in the University of Heidelberg, where he continued till his death. He was the author of numerous very learned works on Romish and civil law. He had been chosen Counsellor of the Court in 1842, and Privy Counsellor in 1849.

VAN KLEEK, Rev. RICHARD D., a Reformed (Dutch) clergyman, for many years engaged in teaching, died in Jersey City, N. J., May 27.

VILLEMMAIN, ABEL FRANCOIS, a celebrated French professor, author, and statesman, perpetual Secretary of the French Academy, born in Paris, June 11, 1790; died there May 10, 1870, aged 80 years. M. Villemain's whole life was devoted to the cause of education. During his early training at the Imperial Lyceum, while not more than twelve years of age, the professor of rhetoric often called him to his chair and gave him charge of his class. In 1810, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Rhetoric in the Lyceum Charlemagne. Two or three years later, he was Assistant Professor of Modern History to M. Guizot, at the Sorbonne. In 1816 he was appointed Professor of French Eloquence in the Sorbonne, and retained the position for ten years, distinguishing himself meantime by his admirable memoirs, his brilliant dramas, and his eloquent historical essays. He was elected to the French Academy in 1821; and in 1826 resigned his professorship at the Sorbonne to take a more active part in political life. In 1827, he resumed his lectures at the Sorbonne. In 1830 he was elected a member of the Chamber of Deputies, and took part in the revolution of July in that year. In 1831 Louis Philippe appointed him a member of the Royal Council of Public Instruction, and the next year its Vice-President, a position which he held till 1845. From 1839 to 1840 he was Minister of Public Instruction. He attempted, but necessarily without success, to unite the conflicting parties of the nation on a law for free secondary instruction. His health failed at this time, and after its restoration he refused all office, but devoted himself to literature, history, and education.

VERPLANCK, GULIAN CROMWELIN, LL.D., an American

scholar, professor, jurist, and philanthropist, born in New York city, August, 1786, died March 18, 1870. Mr. Verplanck, though a gentleman of wealth, leisure, and elegant scholarship and refined tastes, devoted a large portion of his long life, directly and indirectly, to the interests of education. Graduating from Columbia College at the age of fifteen, he subsequently studied law very carefully, and formed a wide and thorough acquaintance with English literature as well as that of modern Europe generally. At the age of 35 he was appointed Professor of Evidences of Revealed Religion and Moral Science in its relation to Theology in the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church. He performed the duties of this professorship with great ability for four years, preparing, in addition to his teaching, one of the best treatises extant on the "Evidences." He was elected to Congress in 1825 and served eight years, and in addition to many other excellent measures, pushed through a good copyright bill. In 1826 he was appointed a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, and in 1855 Vice-Chancellor, and served in these capacities faithfully for forty-four years. From 1847 to his death he was one of the Commissioners of Emigration; from 1834 to 1841, one of the Trustees of the Public School Society, and from 1823 to 1865, one of the Governors of the New York Hospital.

WESTERMANN, ANTOINE, Ph.D., a German professor of history and ancient literature, and author, born in Leipsic, June 18, 1806, and died there June 16, 1870, aged 64 years. He was educated at the University of Leipsic, appointed lecturer in 1830, and adjunct professor in 1832, and professor of history and ancient literature in 1834, and retained the position till his death. He was one of the principal founders of the Society of Sciences in Leipsic in 1846, and author of numerous works.

WASHINGTON, WILLIAM D., an eminent artist and professor of the fine arts in the Virginia Military Institute, died at Lexington, Va., on the 1st of December, 1870.

WILLARD, Mrs. EMMA (HART), eminent both as a teacher and pioneer in the work of female education, died in Troy, N. Y., April 15, 1870, aged 83 years. Among all the names

of distinguished educators who passed away during the year 1870, there are none who have accomplished so much for the education of the masses, and especially for the education of women, as Mrs. Willard. Born in Berlin, Conn., February 23, 1787, of highly intelligent and cultivated parentage, with a mind which delighted in grappling with difficulties, and an energy so indomitable that it never lost its power to her dying day, she was well qualified to be a leader. She was, beyond the scanty measure of instruction to be obtained in the district schools of that day, almost wholly self-educated; and when at the age of eighteen, she commenced teaching, the novelty and thoroughness of her methods, and the amount of practical knowledge she imparted, soon rendered her distinguished through the neighboring towns. In 1809, she married Dr. Willard, and for the time abandoned teaching, but in 1814, financial reverses caused her to return to her true calling, and she opened a school for girls at Middlebury, Ct. After four years of incessant labor and struggle, she was able to grasp the whole of the great problem of female education. She resolved to found a seminary for girls which should be worthy of the name, and fixed upon Waterford, near Troy, as the site. Governor De Witt Clinton gave her his powerful influence and effective support. In 1820 the citizens of Troy offered her a building if she would remove her seminary to their city. She accepted their offer in May, 1821. In 1825, her husband died. She carried on the seminary with the greatest success till 1838, when her son and his wife relieved her of further care. During all this time she labored unweariedly for the establishment of seminaries for the higher education of women all over the country. Of nearly 4,000 pupils who had been under her instruction large numbers became teachers, and the opportunities of female education in this country, largely in consequence of her zealous efforts, are superior to those of any other country.

WRIGHT, Rev. LUTHER, for forty-eight years the able principal of the East Hampton Academy, Mass., and one of the most efficient teachers of our time, died at East Hampton in Oct. 1870, aged about 73 years. He was a graduate of Yale College, and had devoted himself to teaching as the one aim and purpose of his life, and with the greatest success, as thousands of his pupils can testify.

*MOUNT HOLYOKE.*

**M**OUNT HOLYOKE, the Rigi of Massachusetts, is situated two miles from Northampton, on the east side of the Connecticut River. It is 1,175 feet above the sea, and about 1,000 above the river. Few mountains, of the same height, in this country, are surrounded with such beautiful scenery on every side; here are the grand and the beautiful united. Just as we arrived at the summit, the sun was setting in his glorious beauty, lighting up the beautiful Connecticut valley and river with his crimson glow; scarcely had the glittering god disappeared, than the moon, in her soft majesty, arose, softening the scene, and when the distant and numerous villages were lighted up, it seemed more like fairy land than reality. One can see with the naked eye one hundred and fifty miles, and the mountains of four different States are plainly visible, viz.: Monadnock, N. H.; Green, Vt.; East and West Rock, New Haven, Conn.; Greylock, Massachusetts, Sugar Loaf, Norwottuck, Toby, Tom, and Nonotuck, Mass. Thirty-eight towns and villages can be seen with the aid of the telescope, thirty-one in Massachusetts and seven in Connecticut. Looking down in the plain, nearly a thousand feet below, the great fields and acres look like small garden plots; an island directly in front of Prospect House, seems to be about the size of a steamboat—in reality it is a strip of twenty acres; another little dot by the valley has eight thousand acres in it,—and the beautiful river, like a silvery thread, now straight, now curving, now graceful, encircling Oxbow Island, winds in and out through the landscape as far as the eye can see. Dr. Holland, in his history of Western Massachusetts, gives the following statement as to the name of the mountain: "A company of the first settlers of Springfield went northward to explore the country. The party, headed by Elizur Holyoke, went up on the east side of the river, and another, headed by Rowland Thomas, went up on the west side. The parties, arriving abreast at the narrow place in the river, below Hochanum, at what is now called Rock-ferry, Holyoke and Thomas held a conversation with one another across the river, and each, then and there, gave his name to the mountain, at whose feet he stood.



The name of Holyoke remains uncorrupted and without abbreviation, while Mount Thomas has been curtailed to simple and homely 'Tom.'" A foot-path, in olden times, led to the Prospect House, but now, in this age of steam, such an old-fashioned method is quite abolished, and we have a railway, or staircase, which draws the passengers up, almost perpendicularly, six hundred feet. The car is drawn by the action of three horses at the base; we were informed, last summer, that two thousand five hundred people had been drawn up in the car, and no accident has yet occurred; the rope to which the car is attached weighs seven hundred and fifty-nine pounds, and, although not worn out in two years, is always changed at the end of that time.—*Kate Kenwood.*

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*"HAD BEST SPEND."*

"A STUDENT" very properly "asks, as a matter of information, how we parse *had best spend*, on page 44 of our January number, assuming that we defend the use of that form." His assumption, we may as well say, is not incorrect. In writing the sentence referred to, we stopped our pen for some seven seconds, while we passed in review all that the grammarians and grammaticasters have said against this particular idiotism. We might easily have obviated the suspicion of ignorance in regard to the exception so frequently taken to this phrase, by writing: "We do not think it best that boys should spend [for boys to spend] much time on the dry bones of prosody." But we preferred to retain the obnoxious combination, maugre the criticisms of the purists.

For our answer to "A Student's" query, we quote from the first grammar we open—Goold Brown's Grammar of English Grammars, which, being the biggest of its kind, will be recognized at once as the last appeal and end of controversy—the following dictum:—"With *better, rather, best, as lief, had* seems sometimes to be used, before the infinitive to form the potential imperfect or pluperfect" [p. 365]. See, besides, Worcester's Quarto Dictionary, under *have*,



where the same Brown is cited as authority for these "idiomatic expressions." See, too, Webster's Dictionary, under *rather*:—"forms too well supported to be stigmatized as incorrect"; Bullions [Grammar, 358], who does not venture to condemn the phrase; Fowler [Grammar, 552, 5], who simply says, "*would rather* is preferable;" and Webster [Grammar, p. 175], who thinks "*had rather* is probably a mistake."

Shakespeare uses *had as lief* some twenty times. The following are also from Shakespeare: "He *had better starve*," "she *were better love* a dream," "I *were better to be aten*," "*dares better be damned*." The received English version of the Bible gives *had rather be* (Ps. 84; 10), and *had rather speak* (1 Cor. 14; 19). Junius wrote: "I *had as lief be* a Scotchman." Bacon has the sentence: "You *were better pour* off the first infusion," which Gould Brown would change to *had better pour*. Webster, lexicographer and grammarian, has this in his Essays: "You *had much better say* nothing on the subject." Kames, the critic, wrote: "We *had best leave* nature to her own operations." Harris, the accomplished grammarian: "What method *had he best take*." *The Nation*, a better model of style than some recent works upon vulgar errors in the use of the English tongue, gives us two instances of the reputed solecism in the number for 26th January:—"had needs be great," on p. 61, and "had not better be left," on p. 63. In the following issue, p. 77, we find, "had better have spared."

We have given the citations above, in which the combinations *were better* and *dares better* occur, because, to our mind, they suggest the true solution of the syntactical difficulty. In order still further to clear up the matter, we quote from two writers older than any yet cited. Gower has this:—"This knight *hath leauer for to die* than breke his trouth." Joye writes: "God saith, I wilnot ye death of a sinner, but *had liefer hem to be conuerted* and lyve." Here the customary sign of the infinitive after *have* leaves no room for doubt. A proper consideration of the phrases cited in this paragraph will cause the historical grammarian to hesitate before accepting the common dictum that *had* is always a corruption of *would*.

We remind ourselves, however, that the professed gram-

marian has little respect for usage, when it fails to conform to his rules. He holds the Horatian adage about

usus,

Quem penes arbitrium est et jus et norma loquendi,

in but qualified regard. He chiefly desires to know, in reference to a word or phrase, how to "parse" it,—under which of his canons to rank it. He has an unconquerable aversion to anomalies and idiotisms. He sets high store by precision and logical clearness. So do we; the difference between us lies in the fact that he is more intent on the *form* of the expression, we on the *thought* to be expressed. He would be rid of condensed, elliptical, anomalous constructions—is annoyed by grammatical puzzles; we are not greatly troubled by them, if only the meaning shine clearly through.

Perhaps we can best illustrate the point we seek to make, by citing an example from some other language than English. Is *C'est moi* bad French, because *je* is the regular nominative of the first personal pronoun? Or who would venture to change the customary, though, as Madvig says, "in a grammatical point of view, *striking*" combination, *ante diem tertium Nonas*, or *ex ante diem*, for *die tertio ante*, etc., simply because the latter finds explanation in the rules of syntax?

The grammarian is in some danger of forgetting the proper province of his favorite science. His business is to discover and expound the laws of language, not to ordain and enforce laws of his own devising. It is no wonder if the subtilty and luxuriance of human speech should sometimes defy exact and scientific analysis. As thought transcends speech, so speech transcends all possible syntax. The prevailing analogies of a tongue are not to be pressed, to the extinction of those racy, forcible, often poetical peculiarities which we style idiotisms. They are older than all grammars, and constitute so vital a part of the spoken dialect, that the schoolmaster will strive in vain to banish them. And could he succeed, he would only put tameness and monotony in place of the pithy, picturesque irregularities of the vernacular. We enjoy good English as well as others, but we have little sympathy or patience with the petty,

piddling flaw-picking of some of the purists. Give us clearness and strength, even at the expense of elegance, if need be.

We are not unaware that these remarks may suggest questions somewhat difficult to answer. We grant there are phrases in popular use, and not entirely without sanction of reputable authority, which yet we should decline to repeat. Not even R. Grant White's precept, so learnedly backed up, could induce us to say: "The dog *lays* down," though reinforced by the consenting practice of the millions who never read his fine-drawn disquisition. In sailor's parlance, a ship never *lies* at the wharf,—it always *lays*; and we could easily cite from poets, editors, judges, and doctors of divinity to countenance the men of the sea in this use of the word. Now the query will arise, Shall the well-nigh universal use of *lay* as the preterite of *lie* be allowed to prevail over the canon of the grammarian? If "usus" is the great arbiter, may we not say *these sort, those kind, you was* [Webster justifies this in his grammar], *setting* hens [as even Mrs. Stowe does], *being built*, to respectfully but vehemently *disclaim* [Overland Monthly, Jan., 1871], etc., etc.?

For ourselves, we are free to say, that we know of no rule in regard to words that will relieve one from the exercise of his own linguistic sense and taste. Cæsar's maxim: *insolens verbum tanquam scopulum evitare*,—is the most comprehensive, and the most useful, direction that occurs to us. Neither use alone, nor grammar-rules alone, and least of all etymology alone, will serve as a sufficient guide. For instance, almost all ladies, when inquired of as to their health, reply: "I am *nicely, poorly, miserably*," as the case may be. The second of these wretched vocables we have heard used by a university professor of English literature, and find it honored with a place in "Webster," though marked "*colloq.*" *Firstly* is condemned on all hands, but used by Huxley, who evidently knows a thing or two about English as well as physical science. The phrase *being built* has been written at by all the grammarians and verbal critics, big and little, and yet it holds its ground wonderfully well,—perhaps because we can hardly do without it. It would certainly be a little ambiguous to say: The boy *is whipping*—*is teaching*. Change the form of the expression in

the following sentence from an account of Lincoln's first inauguration, and the second Washington would seem to be charged with very unseasonable profanity: "Scott had his guns pointed on the capitol, while Lincoln was *being sworn*." It is said to be a note of defective education for a man to write *over my signature*, instead of the old-time formula, *under my signature*; as if it were a sin to make one's speech conform to present fact rather than ancient precedent. Here is another innocent phrase, that has been hunted up and down in the newspapers, and remorselessly pursued, even by George P. Marsh: *in our midst*. The poor little phraseling did not get into King James's Bible, or Milton's poetry, or Shakespeare's plays, and so all clerkly men are interdicted from employing it, on pain of being suspected of ignorance and vulgarity. *In our midst* must mean *in our bowels*, they say, and then they smile aloud at their own cheap wit, as if it were conclusive criticism. We confess that, for the life of us, we cannot see the point of the objections to this brief, convenient, expressive form of speech. It would be easy to cite many good writers who have employed it. Wherein it is more illogical than *in our vicinity*, or *in our neighborhood*, we would like to have Mr. Marsh tell us, if he can. It is "pretty much of a muchness" with the exceptions taken not long since by something less than a thousand newspapers, religious and other, to the common combination, "*female* prayer-meeting." Some wise body discovered that a *meeting* was without sex, and at once cried out against the impropriety; chiefly, we suppose, because [s]he did not like the word *female*, and wished to be rid of it. The logic was unimpeachable, but it happens that language does not always bend to logic. "Sleeping-coaches" do not sleep; "eating-saloons" have neither teeth nor stomach; "cotton mills" are often built of stone; and "orphan asylums" were never bereaved. Very improper phrases, no doubt, all of them; but perfectly intelligible, notwithstanding their illogical conciseness. In like manner, as we sometimes had occasion to speak of assemblages that were neither women's meetings nor ladies' meetings nor girls' meetings, we kept on in the use of the hated phrase. One result of the discussion unfortunately remains; the good noun *lady* has been obliged, not seldom, to leave its

high and clean uses, and do duty for *female* (we save the word *woman* for noble service), besides being degraded to frequent employment as an adjective; as in the hateful [pardon, ladies! we but borrow the word] phrases, *lady teacher*, *lady editor*, *lady president*, etc.

But to go back;—the peculiar use of *had* in *had better spend* seems to us no more in need of explanation than the same word when signifying *must*; as, "you will *have* to defend yourself;" or than in the phraseological combinations, *have at you*, *have with you*, etc. Like idiomatic uses of *make*, *do*, and *get* will suggest themselves, or may be looked up in a good dictionary or grammar. *Help*, in the sense of *refrain*, is worth naming in the same connection. The so-called auxiliary use of *be* before certain neuter verbs; as, *was gone*, *is come*, is a fearful stumbling-block to certain logical, or analogical grammarians. And yet we would really like to hear them explain how it comes about that it is correct in French and German, but unpardonable in English. It is really wonderful, how sacred are the very blunders of Greek and Roman writers, how patiently their disregard of grammatical logic, and their deviations from analogy are explained and elucidated, while English authors of the very highest rank are picked at and "corrected," until the twenty rigid canons of the critic's grammar will suffice to construe and "parse" each separate word.

We have made these remarks by way of suggestion rather than in order to give currency to our own views, and close by calling attention to an idiomatic phrase, which we certainly would not venture to pronounce incorrect, yet which seems to us an excellent nut for the full-grown grammarian to try his teeth on. "He may perish *for all me*." We would like to see a solution that will not seem far-fetched when applied to *for all that*.

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EVERY man has two educations; that which is given to him, and that which he gives to himself. The latter is the more valuable. All that is most worthy in a man he must work out and conquer for himself. What we are merely *taught*, seldom nourishes the mind like that which we teach ourselves.

## ENGLISH LITERATURE.

## EIGHTH PART.

*"Saw Midsummer Night's Dream. which I had never seen before, nor shall ever again, for it is the most insipid, ridiculous play that ever I saw in my life."*

SAMUEL PEPYS'S DIARY, Sept. 29, 1662.

## THE FRENCH INFLUENCE, 1660-1700.

DURING the eleven years of the Protectorate, and indeed since the battle of Narely in 1645, the eldest son of Charles I. had been a wanderer on the continent of Europe. A portion of the time was spent in the court of Louis XIV., where, in the midst of congenial dissipation, the prince acquired habits that he never lost. When Oliver Cromwell died, no one was found competent to take his place, and the people became dissatisfied and uneasy.

The diary of Samuel Pepys is invaluable as a record of the times. At the beginning of the year 1660, we learn from him that there was "a strange difference in men's talk," and as we follow his garrulous record, we find that those who liked royalty better than republican simplicity gradually grew bolder in their talk. Events were drifting towards a restoration of the line of Stuarts which had been broken when Charles I. was beheaded in 1649.

Pepys was a shrewd courtier, an efficient man of affairs, was not deficient in scientific and literary attainments, and recorded in his diary with great minuteness what he saw in public and in private life. These facts, added to the fact that he held an important civil office under Charles II. and James II. make his diary one of the most interesting literary relics of the age. As he wrote in cipher, Pepys was not afraid to set down matters for which we thank him now, but which, had they been read in his own day, would have cost him his office, very likely his head.

Let us quote a few of his naïve records touching the matter of dress:

"Jan. 22, 1660. This day I began to put on buckles to my shoes."

"Feb. 2. This day I put on my white suit, with silver lace coat."

"April 2. This morning the tailor spent in my cabin putting a great many ribbons to my suit."

"May 15. In the afternoon my lord [Montague] called on me on purpose to show me his fine clothes, which are now come hither, and indeed are as rich as gold and silver can make them."

"May 23. Up, and made myself as fine as I could with the linen stockings, etc., that I bought the other day at Hague."

"July 1. Lord's Day. This morning come home my fine camlet cloak, with gold buttons, and a silk suit, which cost me much money, and I pray God make me able to pay for it."

And so he runs on day after day, mixing his stories of gold buttons and silk suits, and many ribbons, with details of royal debaucheries, the dissipation of the nobles, and the rioting and drunkenness of the commons.

Early in the spring of 1660 an expedition was sent to Holland to bring young Charles to his native land. Pepys accompanied the fleet. While he was yet at the Hague the prince was proclaimed king in London. One fine day, towards the end of May, he landed on English soil beneath the white cliffs of Dover. The shore was crowded with his new subjects—horsemen and footmen—noblemen and yeomen united to welcome back the sovereign who, they supposed, would give them order for confusion. The mayor came too, in great pomp, and presented him a Bible. His hypocritical Majesty kissed the book, and unblushingly proclaimed that he loved it above all things else in the world! He was soon driven off to Canterbury amid shouts and expressions of loyal joy which, Pepys says, were "past imagination."

There was now a change in literature no less marked than in life. Gayety, frivolity, license were the order of the day in court, and the commons followed, like loyal subjects, the royal example. The ribbons that Pepys put on were adopted by all who would stand well at court. Men wore brilliant satin doublets with slashed sleeves, rich point-lace collars, and graceful plumes were on their hats! The king had no shame, no more had the people, though Pepys does record in cipher that he had a little. The theatres which the Puritans had closed were reopened, and the female characters were personated by women. Milton's books were burned by the common hangman, and John Bunyan was shut up to dream in Bedford jail.

One of the first books published under the new order was a burlesque poem of eleven thousand lines entitled *Hudibras*,



in which the author, Samuel Butler, held up to ridicule the peculiar habits, manners, customs and doctrines of the Puritans. It is one of the greatest efforts of its peculiar style of writing, and its broad jokes mark it as the product of the age of the restoration.

The spirit of the age penetrated every sphere of life, and even Dr. South, the great divine, could not restrain himself when tempted to point his arrows of sarcasm at the Puritans.

One of the greatest writers of the time was John Dryden, a professional author of wonderful fertility, whose works are strongly marked by the influence of the new atmosphere of court. He was a critic of catholicity and courage, a dramatist of literary merit, but bad morals, a prose writer of vigor, a poet of cold conventionalities, and mechanical perfection, but not of the heart-power which is the boast of so many other English authors.

The "Comic Dramatists of the Restoration" is the title of one of Macaulay's essays, and it ought to be read by every student of this time. In it we see Etheridge, Vanburgh, Congreve and Wycherley held up to the shame they merit, for their immoral plays.

The fashionable dinner hour in these days in London, was three o'clock, or at latest four. After this meal, at about six, the ladies made visits to one another, and the gentlemen began at about the same hour to assemble at their favorite coffee houses. Coffee seems to have been first brought to England about 1641. Its virtues were highly lauded by advertisement, and by the date of which we now treat it was a very popular beverage. It appears that the company at each coffee-house was somewhat select, and of a particular character. The politicians assembled at St. James's, the learned frequented the Grecian, the gay and young went to White's, and the wits and poets congregated at Wills', which came to be called the Wits' Coffee House. These places exerted a great literary influence for many years, for they were the centres of information, wit and criticism. John Dryden presided at Wills', and a succession of men whose names stand high in literary annals, were found breathing its fragrant atmosphere, and drinking its refreshing beverage. Of these were Wycherley, Pope, Addison, Gay, and others.

From the coffee-house grew, at a later period, the club, which is now a prominent feature in English city life, but generally deficient in literary character.

The essays of the *Tattler*, *Spectator*, and *Rambler* were also fruits of the clubs. The two names of the period we are considering which these essays suggest to our minds are those of Joseph Addison, and Sir Richard Steele. These two men were of very different traits of character, but labored together with singular unity of purpose. Some of the characters they portrayed were invented by one, and perfected by the other, and thus the liveliness and dramatic power of Steele were improved in action by the delicate and refined taste of Addison. It is to Addison, undoubtedly, that we must attribute the great social reform inaugurated by the papers of the *Spectator*. His Christian eloquence enabled him, as Macaulay says, to teach "the nation that the faith and morality of Hale and Tillotson might be found in company with wit more sparkling than the wit of Congreve, and with humor richer than the humor of Vanburgh. So effectually indeed did he retort on vice the mockery that had recently been directed against virtue, that since his time the open violation of decency has always been considered among us as the sure mark of a fool." Thus the generation that gave our literature the debasing plays of the comic dramatists of the restoration, gave it also the purifying essays of the classic Addison.

Another influence was also at work. Jeremy Collier, a graduate of Oxford, came out against the shameless authors of the day in *A Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage*. This contained some arguments not of the most powerful sort, but it brought the matter into notice, the eyes of the people were opened, and a discussion continuing ten years led to a purer taste and a purer stage.

The French influence during the period before us was manifest both in the morals and in the manner of the literature. If the influences above-mentioned had improved the morals of English writing, we shall see that, for the next generation at least, the mark of its manner, artificial and heartless, was not worn away. The extract at the head of this paper shows into what repute Shakespeare had fallen at the

time of the restoration. It was long before his writings regained their proper place in the opinion of his countrymen. Milton was so much more recent, and his works were looked upon with so much prejudice, that they are not even mentioned in Mr. Pepys's extensive diary.

ARTHUR GILMAN.

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#### AVERSENESS TO LEARNING TRADES.

THERE is the soundest common sense in the following paragraph from the *Manufacturer and Builder*: Why is it that there is such a repugnance on the part of parents to putting their sons to a trade? A skilled mechanic is an independent man. He has literally his fortune in his own hands. Yet foolish parents—ambitious that their sons should “rise in the world,” as they say—are more willing that they should study for a profession with chances even of a moderate success heavily against them, or run the risk of spending their manhood in the ignoble task of retailing dry goods, or of toiling laboriously at the accountant's desk, than learn a trade which would bring them manly strength, health, and independence. In point of fact, the method they choose is the least likely to achieve the advancement aimed at; for the supply of “errand boys,” dry-goods clerks, is notoriously overstocked; while the demand for really skilled mechanics of every description, is as notoriously beyond the supply. The crying need of the country to-day is for skilled labor; and that father who neglects to provide his son with a useful trade, does him a grievous wrong, and runs the risk of helping by so much, to increase the stock of idle and dependent, if not vicious, members of society. It is stated in the report of the Prison Association, that of 14,596 prisoners confined in the penitentiaries of thirty States in 1867, seventy-seven per cent. or over 10,000 of the number, had never learned a trade. The fact conveys a lesson of profound interest to those who have in charge the training of boys, and girls too, for the active duties of life.

*FICTION AS AN EDUCATOR.*

DRYDEN gives it as his opinion that "it is the genius of our countrymen to improve upon an invention rather than to invent themselves;" and though he is speaking of the obligations of our earlier English poets to Italian sources, rather than of the mission of Oriental fancy to help Western imagination to the use of its wings, yet his argument takes that direction, and shows the necessity of a first impulse from without in opposition to the irrepressible theory lately put forth. No doubt a work of far less decided force of invention falling on a kindred fancy effects the same purpose. We have always regarded the "Autobiography of David Copperfield" as in some points imaging Charles Dickens's own early experiences. When his hero amuses Steerforth at school with repetitions of his early novel-readings, we doubt not they were the tales that had impressed the author's own childhood, and given the bent to his genius. When little Copperfield pays his first visit to Mr. Micawber in the Marshalsea, and recalls on his way Roderick Random's consignment to that dreary prison, and there encountering a debtor whose only covering was a blanket, it was probably the recollection of a similar vivid startling impression on his own feelings which made the humors of prison-life at all times a congenial subject for his pen.

Curiously illustrating this view is Cobbett's history of what he calls the birth of his intellect. Cobbett's was certainly an irrepressible character; but the intellect which gave such weight and impetus to it needed an awakening which, except for an accident, might not have happened in childhood—the age essential for its full development. And unless Swift had chosen to express himself through the medium of fiction (so to call it), his mind, however congenial with Cobbett's, would never have come in contact with it at the impressible period, and probably never at all. It is one of the main gifts of influence to know the right means to an end, and Swift knew invention to be his means, saying, "In my disposeure of employments of the brain, I have thought fit to make invention the master, and to give method and reason the office of its lackeys."

"At eleven years of age" (Cobbett writes), "my employment was clipping of box-edgings and weeding beds of flowers in the garden of the Bishop of Winchester, at the Castle of Farnham, my native town. I had always been fond of beautiful gardens, and a gardener, who had just come from the King's gardens at Kew, gave me such a description of them as made me instantly resolve to work in those gardens. The next morning, without saying a word to any one, off I set, with no other clothes except those upon my back, and with thirteen halfpence in my pocket. I found I must go to Richmond, and I accordingly went on from place to place, inquiring my way thither. A long day (it was in June) brought me to Richmond in the afternoon. Two penny-worth of bread and cheese, and a penny-worth of small beer, which I had on the road, and one halfpenny that I had lost somehow or other, left threepence in my pocket. With this for my whole fortune, I was trudging through Richmond in my blue smock-frock, and my red gaiters tied under my knees, when, staring about me, my eye fell upon a little book in a bookseller's window, on the outside of which was written 'The Tale of a Tub, price threepence.' The title was so odd that my curiosity was excited. I had the threepence, but then I could not have any supper. In I went and got the little book, which I was so impatient to read that I got over into a field at the upper corner of Kew Gardens, where there stood a haystack. On the shady side of this I sat down to read. The book was so different from anything I had ever read before, it was something so new to my mind, that, though I could not understand some parts of it, it delighted me beyond description, and produced what I have always considered a sort of birth of intellect. I read on till it was dark without any thought of supper or bed. When I could see no longer I put my little book in my pocket and tumbled down by the side of the stack, where I slept till the birds in Kew Gardens awaked me in the morning, when off I started to Kew, reading my little book. . . . I carried it about with me wherever I went, and when I—at about twenty years old—lost it in a box that fell overboard in the Bay of Fundy, in North America, the loss gave me greater pain than I have since felt at losing thousands of pounds."

Who can tell how much Cobbett's admirable style, so remarkable in a self-educated man, turned upon an early acquaintance with such a model? The choice and collocation of words owe much to early preference, and the rhythm which first charms the ear.

The child's first visit to the theatre plays a telling part in the memory of genius. Our readers will recall Charles Lamb's vivid recollections of his first play, "Artaxerxes," seen at six years old, when the green curtain veiled heaven to his imagination—when, incapable of the anticipation, he

reposed his shut eyes in the maternal lap—when at length all feeling was absorbed in vision. “I knew nothing, understood nothing, discriminated nothing. I felt all, loved all, wondered all, was nourished I could not tell how.” And Walter Scott, at four, shouting his protest, “But ain’t they brothers?” as Orlando and Oliver fought upon the Bath stage. Goethe’s childhood recollections are all of the theatre and living actors and puppets, his earliest and lasting inspiration. But the excitement of the scene commonly makes a child too conscious of the present, and of his own part in it, for the magic of new impressions to work undisturbed. A clever child is stimulated to immediate imitation of what it sees. The sight of the actors, the gaudy accessories, the artificial tones, lower the level. The noblest language, the most impressive scenes, don’t work on the mind as they do pictured by the busy absorbed fancy. No child reading “Macbeth” or the “Midsummer Night’s Dream” could conceive the idea of composing a play; but, taken to the theatre, play-writing proposes itself as an obvious amusement. “It is the easiest thing in the world,” said Southey, at eight years old an *habitué*, to write a play.” “Is it, my dear?” said the lady he addressed. “Yes,” he answered; “for you know you have only to think what you would say if you were in the place of the characters, and to make them say it;” a notion very current with children, who expect the words to come with the situation, but unpromising for future success. We find always a period of gestation between the first prompting and great achievement.—(*To be continued.*)

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GOOD LANGUAGE.—Young people should acquire the habit of correct speaking and writing, and abandon as early as possible any use of slang words or phrases. The longer you put this off the more difficult the acquirement of correct language will be; and if the golden age of youth, the proper season for the acquisition of language, be passed in abuse, the unfortunate victim will most probably be doomed to talk slang for life. You have merely to use the language which you read, to form a taste in agreement with the speakers and poets in the country.



*KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.*

A FEW years ago, George Catlin wrote a pamphlet, which was published in England, and is now being translated in most other European languages, on the importance of breathing through the nose, in order to preserve health. He has made observations on this subject, first among civilized nations, finding that individuals who habitually keep their mouths open are never very healthy or long lived. Afterward, he observed the same thing during a sojourn of many years among the Indians of North and South America; and he has come to the conclusion that there exists a definite law for breathing and sleeping, obedience to which must exercise the most beneficial influence on the well-being of the human race, and which can not be too strongly insisted upon. Mothers, and all others who have children to educate, should be persuaded of its great importance, that they may inculcate upon their children and pupils the golden lesson contained in these four words, *Keep your mouth shut*. Hitherto this advice has been considered only as a moral injunction, to restrain children from talking too much; but Catlin prescribes it literally, and insists that air should only pass in or out of the lungs by the nose, except in the act of speaking or singing. He is so enthusiastic concerning the great value of this simple hygienic recipe that he closes the book with the following remarks: "If I had a million of dollars to spend for a charitable purpose, surpassing all others in value, I would spend it to print four millions of my books, and distribute them among four million mothers, rich as well as poor. I would not obtain therefor any monument nor decoration of nobility; but I would—which is much better—have obtained the peculiarly joyful satisfaction that I had left posterity a legacy of much higher value than money ever can have."

There is no doubt that the advice is good. The air, by being inhaled through the nose, is more perfectly freed from dust, and in winter reaches the lungs in a warmer condition than when inhaled by the mouth (which is of great importance to people with weak lungs). It keeps the lower forward portion of the brain cool, when inhaled by the nose;



while it dries the saliva, and thus interferes with digestion, when inhaled by the mouth ; and those who sleep with their mouths shut will not have that dry, unpleasant taste when they awake in the morning, and are less subject to that nocturnal social nuisance—*snoring*.

However, in regard to the theory that life is shortened by the habit of breathing through the mouth, we are satisfied that it depends on another cause, namely, a defect in the primary organization of the individual. The channels of the nose are often not left wide enough to admit sufficient air for respiration ; so that the individual is compelled to respire at least a portion of it through the mouth. It is a fact known by connoisseurs of horses, that when their nostrils are too narrow they cannot stand much fatigue, and are short winded, never live long, and soon break down. But, as the horse cannot breathe through his mouth at all, the defect in question is more dangerous to him than to man, and often fatal when he is over-worked.

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### THE SONS OF PESTALOZZI.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF CARL GUTZKOW.

#### CHAPTER VIII.

THE Countess did not permit the events of the night to interfere with her resolution to depart. She had slept longer than she intended. She received with feigned indifference the reports of the domestics as to Wülfig's presence on the premises during the night, his taking away his own things and some of the Count's property, and his attempt to set fire to the house. A bundle of brimstone threads had been discovered in the courtyard. Friction matches and one larger match, of cotton-yarn twisted, had been found at the same place. No other marks of the attempted crime had been traced as yet. Nothing was mentioned as to the cotton forced between the blinds. The Count, they said, was greatly excited. The purpose of the criminals to destroy his collections was evident. Early in the morning he had galloped away to the town of Dornweil, the seat of the court. He had given the alarm in all the neighboring villages, and had effected the arrest of one Wildman, a

day-laborer, and his whole family, the members of which were well acquainted in the castle. One of the daughters was engaged to be married to Wülfing. The criminal must have had accomplices, since the tracks of several persons had been discovered in the park. It was clear that there was a conspiracy to burn the castle.

Nothing could have happened more to Jadwiga's purpose than the departure of the Count. Dornweil was several leagues distant. The Count, a former member of the bench, would naturally take an active part in the transactions, and especially in the examination of the prisoners. His return was not to be expected before noon. Perhaps the united efforts of her attendants might forward the necessary preparations so as to enable her to depart before the probable return of her husband. Indeed, everything was ready immediately after lunch, and the Countess left the chateau in an elegant, heavily loaded traveling-coach, two of the servants being seated in a separate compartment in the rear. Unfortunately her road was the same that the Count had taken, and Dornweil, the seat of the court, was the very place where she was to exchange her own horses for post-horses. But she had provided for the event that the Count, on his return to the castle, might encounter her on the road. Her instructions to the coachman were, "under no circumstances, to stop the horses."

At the first gate, the toll-receiver stopped the carriage. Believing that the trip was in some way connected with Wülfing's attempted crime, he reported what he knew of the results of the chase for the culprits. "They will soon have them. The gens d'armes<sup>1</sup> are distributed at all points. They are on their track. Two of them are hiding in the forest. Who would have thought such things of Wülfing! And then these Wildmans, too! Who would have imagined that they were such wicked people! Not long ago they were taken past the house. It was the whole set. The old people were crying and swearing that they knew nothing about it. But Gussie, Wülfing's sweetheart, you know, was very down-cast and solemn, and did not dare to look up. That tells the whole story.

<sup>1</sup> The gens d'armes are a police-force with a strictly military organization.

They must be down in Dornweil by this time, where the squire will examine them."

The servants inquired whether he knew anything about "the other one." "One of Wildman's boys, they say; Gussie's brother, a wicked fellow! The Count thinks so, too. He has just passed here down the forest road."

The toll-house was on a crossing, and the Countess knew now that she would not meet her husband, a possibility of which she had been not a little afraid. When the carriage was rolling on again, she could not cease thinking about the toll-receiver's remarks on "Gussie." She had always liked this person; for she bore a good character, was pretty, diligent, and had often made herself useful in the chateau. The Countess had often thought that "Gussie" was worthy of a better position in the world than her parents could afford her. If she was gloomy and downcast, the reason must have been the terrible charges against Wülfing. For that the girl should have any share in the attempted crime seemed altogether improbable. She soon became absorbed in these thoughts. Hennenhöft alone seemed to disturb her musings. But still—a new thought flashed through her mind, and she started as if bitten by a serpent! Might she not employ this very man for her present purposes?

About half an hour had thus passed; the horses were going at full speed. Suddenly they stopped. Roused from her dreams, she overheard the following loud and confused remarks of her servants: "There they are; there they bring them; they are coming from the forest—and in chains, they are guarded by peasants with clubs. For pity's sake, how slowly they are creeping along! But they know how to make them go! Now they are taking them between two *gens d'armes* on horseback. Is that the other one? Why, that is the fellow who applied for the place—last night at the Count's dinner. Good gracious, they have concocted all this together!"

The Countess, by means of her eye-glasses, which she held with a trembling hand, surveyed the scene that was enacting at a distance of about a thousand yards. The prisoners were transported in the direction of the highroad, which they must reach in a short time. The Countess, not desiring to meet the party, ordered the driver to go on

quickly. They soon arrived at Dornweil. Here she had a conversation with the mail-coach agent, in the presence of several guests of the hotel at which they had stopped. She openly and emphatically declared the prisoners to be—innocent. She repeated this to all who asked her, even to her own servants. Then she sought an interview with the prosecuting attorney, in order to give him the necessary information. The excitement created by these unexpected statements of the Countess was the greater, because they were in direct contradiction to those of the Count, who only a few hours ago had given the alarm to the whole town.

The Court-house in Dornweil is an ancient stone building in East-European style, a peculiar mixture of certain elements of Italian architecture, with the character of Slavic wood structures.

Our scene is in that portion of Eastern Germany which was in the track of the Slavic immigration. The town had a large market-square, called "the Ring," containing the principal buildings of the place, the Church, the Town-house, Court-house, and the several Guild-houses. The market was shaded by many remarkable and ancient specimens of the "Slavic" linden tree, that symbol of meekness and peace, which by virtue of its aromatic odor, is the special favorite of dreamy and imaginative nations. A pair of cockle-stairs, with spiral windings, led from the pavement to the entrance of the Court-house, with its curious roofs, minute domes and turrets. Both staircases ended in a covered gallery at the outside of the building.

The Countess was on the first steps, when a man was just descending from the gallery. She recognized him as lawyer Hellwig, the same whom she consulted at Buchenried. The lawyer bowed to her stiffly; but scarcely had he replaced his traveling cap, when it became apparent to her that she had been recognized by him. He had caught sight of the Countess, the coach on the opposite side of the market, the servants, the coachman. Having made a few steps downward, he suddenly stopped, raised his eyebrows with an expression of surprise, and after some deliberation retraced his steps upward to the interior of the Court-house. With great misgivings the Countess entered the court-room,

where she made herself and her purpose known to the district attorney. The latter, with great politeness, took up his papers. Jadwiga stated that accident had made her an eye-witness of last night's occurrence.

"Indeed! The Count said nothing of it——"

"I have not seen the Count since the event. I was engaged in preparations for a long journey, which I have just now commenced. My mind was entirely occupied by my private affairs. When I thought that it was the proper time to make the necessary explanations as to the events of last night, I found that my husband had already departed, that the poor Wildmans were under arrest, and that warrants were issued for the arrest of innocent persons——"

"Countess Wildenschwert, I am amazed——"

"I hoped to overtake the Count on the road. But I find that I have come too late to prevent the mischief. Hence I wish to put my statements on record."

"Very well," said the official; "will you pledge your word for the innocence of these people?" With these words he opened the file of papers already drawn up in the case.

Jadwiga was afraid that some mention might have been made of the combustible matter that Hennenhöft had placed between the blinds. She asked, therefore, whether she could not have her husband's deposition read to her? After the district attorney had complied with her wish, she smiled and said: "All these statements are mere conjectures, which I might have easily refuted, had I not been so much pre-occupied with my own affairs." After these preliminary remarks, she gave, at the request of the prosecuting attorney, the following version of the events with which our readers are already familiar:

"The preparations for my journey had occupied me till a very late hour of the night. I was going to open one of the windows, to let in some fresh air, when I heard the noise of our hounds in the court-yard, as if somebody were caressing them. This made me suppose that it was Wülfig. He had been absent the whole day, in consequence of some difficulty with my husband the night before. You know, such things *will* happen sometimes. Whose fault it was, I dare not decide."

The features of the officer showed undisguised surprise. The Countess made an attempt to smile.

"We women," she continued, "are always disposed to be somewhat severe on the faults of our husbands, when we perceive that other people have to suffer by them. The Count has a high temper. But it is quite probable that Wülfling may have behaved improperly. I shall not doubt it in the least. But, to do him justice, I must say that he was, on the whole, a good servant, faithful and attentive. He was three years with us—as long as I have been married to the Count." After this digression, she again took up her narrative. "Believing that somebody was with the dogs, I became alarmed and went to another room, where I could see what was going on. I cautiously opened a shutter and saw that there was another man beside Wülfling. He had a coat on like that of a huntsman, as nearly as I could distinguish by the feeble moonlight. I noticed that Wülfling handed over to this man several things which he had apparently taken from his room in the opposite house; for he was standing close by the window. I could distinctly see that he put aside some of the things, and it seemed to me that he was separating the things belonging to himself from those belonging to the Count; for he put many of them back into the room. It also seemed as if he had not light enough for this purpose; for I saw him strike several matches at brief intervals. In the meanwhile, the wind had arisen, and my open shutter was closed by it. For reasons, easily understood, I let a short time pass before I opened it again. When I had done it, I found that both men had left the premises. It seems clear that the brimstone threads found by our people in the court-yard, were employed for no other purpose than to give sufficient light to the men while they were separating Wülfling's property from that of the Count. Our servants were misled by these materials, to cast an utterly groundless suspicion on innocent men."

The prosecuting attorney did not seem to be quite satisfied with this narrative. "Countess Wildenschwert," said he, "the times have gone by when people used bundles of brimstone threads for making a light."

"Certainly," replied Jadwiga; "but Wülfling probably



had these threads in his room. I had spoken with him about keeping bees. We have many wild swarms in our forest, and brimstone must be used to 'sulphur them out.' I told him to procure some, and the brimstone threads, found by the servants, are unquestionably those which he procured at my request."

We do not know how long the Countess would have indulged in these creations of her imaginative power—vulgarly called lies—had it not suddenly occurred to her that Wülfig, in his impending examination, might tell a very different story. She had also remarked, to her great uneasiness, that lawyer Hellwig was softly gliding past the windows on the outside gallery. A sardonic smile on his face revealed to her the fact that she was recognized by him, and there was no telling what might be the consequences, if he were indiscreet enough to initiate the district attorney into the secrets of her interview with him.

There was a brief pause. The officer of the law seemed to deliberate. But he soon concluded that the deposition of the Countess necessarily must end the whole matter. While he was committing her statements to paper, lawyer Hellwig had entered the court-room, and after having taken a seat, turned over some papers, with apparent indifference to the proceedings. When the district attorney had read to the Countess his record of her statements, he seemed to intimate by an anxious look about the room, that he required somebody to identify the person of the Countess, to whom he was a perfect stranger. Lawyer Hellwig looked up, arose, and politely bowing towards the Countess, intimated by this act that he was personally acquainted with her. This seemed to give full satisfaction to the officer. But Jadwiga almost fainted when she saw that a part of her secrets were at the mercy of a stranger. Still she recovered strength enough to place a sum of money in the hands of the district attorney, with a request to hand it to the prisoners, as a partial compensation for the wrongs they had innocently suffered. She requested him, as a special favor, to release, as soon as possible, the members of the Wildman family from prison. She also left her address in the city, and expressed the desire that those that had been under



arrest might be encouraged to apply to her for further assistance.

A few minutes later the Countess was on the road to the capital.<sup>1</sup>

## CHAPTER IX.

SEVENTEEN years had passed since the scene in the court-house of Dornweil. It was one of those rare years in which Nature permits Spring to succeed quickly upon grim Winter. The month of May was indeed the bridal kiss which, as our ancient poet Logau<sup>2</sup> says, is impressed by Heaven upon the lips of Earth as a future mother.

Blue and bright was the sky over a lovely region of Central Germany. Valleys and mountains, meadows and forests, villages and detached farm-houses lay scattered in picturesque variety. A boy of about twelve years might be seen zealously searching for something on a hill-side near the edge of a forest. When looking out into the distance the dazzling rays of the morning sun made him protect his eyes with both his hands.

Had the barefooted urchin been Uhland's shepherd boy,<sup>3</sup> he might have well lent words to a feeling akin to that of a king; for he, too, could say that he wielded a scepter over a beautiful world lying at his feet. Yonder to the left, extended a majestic forest, closing the distant view of more than one-half of this panorama. Opposite to the right, abundance and comfort met the eye in the shape of mills, villages, agricultural establishments, and manorial buildings. Immediately below was a stately little village, commanded by a lofty church-steeple, and an ancient chateau, built in a rather tasteless, antiquated style, to which a private road with a double row of poplars gave access.

<sup>1</sup> For those not acquainted with the German law, it will not be superfluous to remark, that no oath is taken from witnesses before the formal indictment. In criminal cases, only the presiding judge is entitled to take the oaths of witnesses in the presence of the jury. Thus it happened that Countess Jadwiga did not make her statements under oath, which, although they were untrue, did not involve a perjury.—*Translator's Note.*

<sup>2</sup> Frederick von Logau was born in 1604. He was a contemporary of Opitz, and belonged to the Silesian poetical school. Logau is one of the greatest of German epigrammatists. His antiquated language, bearing the marks of a dark period in German literature, has prevented many from duly appreciating the great beauty of his thoughts.—*Remark of the Translator.*

<sup>3</sup> The author refers to Uhland's beautiful poem, "Ich bin vom Berg der Hirtenknab."—*Translator.*

Say what you will against poplar trees! they are Nature disguised in a footman's livery. They are to nature what porters are to the mansions of the rich, or the armorial en-signs to the arched gateway. There is no earthly use either in a seigniorial porter, a coat-of-arms or a double row of poplar trees, all of which rather belong in the chapter of nuisances. Still they are a significant embodiment of Pride. Poplars are the guards of honor to the traditions of wealth.

The little spy on the forest edge had about him very little of the romantic shepherd boy. No happiness, no cheerfulness spoke in his eyes, not even the pride of swaying a flock of fifty sheep by means of a barking officer. He fell even below the average of such specimens of his class as are apt to dispel all illusion created by some rural scenery in a collection of pictures. His clothes were rags, his feet without shoes; his tattered shirt was soiled, his flaxen hair matted; his eyes, deep in their sockets, were at once shy and defiant. When he did not look about him, he worked with a knife at willow-twigs, to cut them into whistles. Some he had already made, and practised whistling on them from time to time.

"Are you loafing about again, Bartel? Why do you not go to school as all the other children do? You are a disgrace to the place. While the other boys are going to school, you make faces behind your old, worthy schoolmaster. Take care, you scoundrel! If our minister does not soon send the constable to your house to take you up to school by the collar, I shall get out a warrant against you from the chief of police, and have you locked up!"

The boy thus addressed was frightened at first, but the impression did not last, although the harangue came from the seigniorial forester, the man whom of all others he dreaded most. The forester had taken the boy by surprise. The man was smoking a meerschaum, and wore a gray, short uniform with green collar and shoulder straps, the badge of his office. His light straw hat had a large front to protect his eyes from the sun.

"My father does not want me to go to school," was the pert reply of the boy, who in his first fright had retired towards the forest, but was now coming back to his willow-twigs.

"They will give it to your father for his 'not wanting!' If the overseer were not too good hearted, he would make you stand in the stocks in front of the school-house with donkey's ears on your head—*so* long! What are you about here, you rascal, I want to know. This is not the first time I have found you here. What business have you just at this spot?"

"I am cutting whistles of willows."

"Willows do not grow here."

"I brought them along with me."

"Why just here? Wait a little, my boy, there comes the village overseer (*schulze*);<sup>1</sup> he will have something to say to you — —"

The forester turned towards a corpulent, broad-shouldered farmer, who was coming up the hill, wiping the sweat from his face with a linen handkerchief with blue squares. He held a big, broad-brimmed hat in his other hand, and was panting from his violent exertions in ascending the hill. The boy had made use of this opportunity for making good his escape.

"*Schulze*, will you not do something with that brat of Bartel's? The rascal never goes to school, either in summer or in winter — —"

"That imp of a — —" replied Schulze Stutzbart, the wealthiest villager in Steinthal; "Yes, he will now be seen to. The minister has reported him to the chief of police. When I speak about the boy with old Bartel, his father, he says that he can teach him just as much as they do in school; and when I write to him, he pays no attention to my orders. The other day I met him at the raising of the new house in Stettingen. He stood on the top of the roof, and was making a swearing and swaggering speech, with a rum-bottle in his hand, and so drunk that all thought he would come down head foremost, and break his neck. Bartel, said I, you are a hardened sinner, you will go on blaspheming and swearing, and tipping, till you will be on your back, and Satan will have his own. 'Well,' said he, 'then the old woman will make a good bargain with

<sup>1</sup> The office of overseer in German villages corresponds to that of mayor in the towns and cities. Such an overseer is called *schulze*. He is appointed by the State authorities, and is the executive officer of the government in all matters pertaining to the rural police. He is always taken from the number of the peasant freeholders. The *schulze* receives only a nominal salary from the community, but his importance among the villagers is great.

me for once.' Now I had to laugh in spite of myself. For his wife, you know, goes about the country, gathering old bones for the factory in Olberschwende."

"So they say," drily remarked the forester, while proceeding on his way, at the side of his friend, the "schulze." The voice of the mischievous boy was heard screaming and taunting after them. — —

\* The times have gone by in which our rural population could not appreciate the advantages of education. The daily life of our peasantry had formerly three centres—the church, the council-house, and—the village tavern. To these is now added a fourth—the SCHOOL. The school-house and the schoolmaster's dwelling have now become the peasant's pride. The new school-house of the little community strikes from afar the eyes of every passer-by. It is solidly built, of brick or stone. Numerous, large and air-affording are its windows. The melodious singing of the children, or their voices answering in a chorus may be heard at any time during school hours.

The regulations as to attendance and excuses for avoiding school are strict and rigorously enforced. The planting season and harvest time are the natural vacations of the village school. It is now not only during the winter months that the children are sent to school; even in summer the law consecrates the mornings exclusively to the school. In the later hours the child may carry the meal to his father, and help him in his field-work; or the children may employ this time in picking berries or gathering the cones of firs in the forest. In that portion of the country to which we have now conducted our readers, the burning of charcoal in the extensive forests gave to children a remunerative opportunity to assist their parents. The whole forest and all the track of land which could be seen from the hill on which the first scene of this chapter was enacted, formed part of the large possessions of Baron Otto de Fernau, or rather his wife, Jadwiga, the former Countess of Wildenschwert. Manufacturing industry is still far from this neighborhood, but it is approaching. The first outpost, at the same time a blessing and a breeder of pestilence, is the chemical works in Olberschwende. There they manufacture artificial fertilizers, sal amoniac, and boneblack.

Our government is rigorously enforcing now the laws on compulsory education. Not exactly for education's own sake! Alas, no! Government cannot speedily enough transform men into figures that count, into recruits, "food for powder." Hence, it begins early with its system of control, sifting the different generations as the miller does his grist. What "numbers" have we at our disposition? is the paramount question. Thus they always count and calculate beforehand. The schoolmaster reaps the benefit of this statistical solicitude. Now he need not any longer play the Jack of fathers and mothers, and see his freedom of action everywhere circumscribed by their narrow views! True, his compensation is still inadequate. The gardeners of the mind are still too dependent on the will of the communities and patrons who may measure out with a liberal or a stingy hand that part of the teacher's dues which is payable in kind. But so much, at least, has been achieved by the policy of our government—which knows national strength, patriotism, and devotion to be the fruit of that popular education which forces the individual into their inexorable statistical machinery, suffering not even a single one to drop out of it—so much has been accomplished by a successful application of these screws, that the time has passed forever when not only the attendance at school but the whole educational machine was dependent on the despotic will of the family and on the narrow-minded legislation of corporations and other centres of stupidity. The law prescribes what *must* be taught, what *must* be learned. It is true the school is not "emancipated," but under the guardianship of the State. But it will never be disfranchised of domestic follies and vicissitudes; of the influence of mothers who nowhere more than in the rural districts spoil their children; of vulgar fathers, prouder than the Counts of the Empire because they are feeding more cattle in their stables than their neighbors, and who will break in the schoolrooms with clenched fists, and menace the teacher with a thrashing for every blow on the backs of their crown princes! But the appeal of the school to those powers that defend its legal rights, is vastly easier now and more effective than formerly. The teacher represents a PRINCIPLE. If he is religious or even shrewd,

he will lean on the power of the Church. At all events, the next chief of police will afford him ample protection in maintaining discipline.<sup>1</sup>

Bartel, the bricklayer in Steinthal, dared to drop out of that machinery. With his breed of children, the proletarian defied the representative of the law in the person of the schoolmaster, John Jacob Nesselborn, the venerable, grey-haired father of our old friend Lienhard Nesselborn, the disciple of Pestalozzi.

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### WREDE'S EXPLORATIONS IN ARABIA.

FEW regions of the earth offer so many charms to the imagination as "Arabia Felix," both from the profusion and picturesqueness of the antique traditions respecting it and from the mystery in which it is for the most part involved even to our day. The interesting narrative recently communicated to the British Association by Mr. Munsinger (says the SATURDAY REVIEW) threw considerable light on the character of the country and the people, and at the same time served to confirm the statements of an earlier traveler, whose long suppressed work saw the light at about the same period. But for the perverse fate which has so long retarded the publication of Adolph Wrede's journey, performed in 1843, our knowledge of this part of Arabia might twenty years since have been as ample as it is at present. Wrede's destiny was singularly infelicitous. The successful execution of one of the most adventurous enterprises ever undertaken, rich in geographical acquisitions of the highest moment, brought him no other reward than the general incredulity

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<sup>1</sup> We do not fully agree with the celebrated scholar and novelist in all these particulars. The reader must not forget that Gutzkow, in the beginning of his career, belonged to the most outspoken opponents of the government, and was in turn relentlessly pursued by the latter. This hostility to all that is governmental is often visible in spite of himself, and not rarely impairs his impartiality. Perhaps the greatest triumph for the educational system adopted by the Prussian government, is the result of the present war against France. Without its relentless educational system the stupendous display of national vigor would have been an impossibility. It is well worth the trouble to inquire into the motives of the Prussian government in introducing and carrying out its system of compulsory education. We certainly may condemn these motives, and yet indorse the means applied. But, be this as it may, nothing is more certain than that the men who inaugurated the Prussian educational system were of unquestionable purity, and of the most elevated and liberal views.—*Translator*.



of his countrymen. The case resembled Bruce's, with the serious difference for Wrede that the unjust obloquy which weighed so heavily upon the Englishman befell him after the publication of his travels; while in the case of the German it so operated as to prevent publication altogether. The accidental loss of maps and illustrations frustrated a promising attempt to procure the translation of the manuscript into English, and Wrede in despair emigrated to Texas, where all trace of him has been lost.

Wrede derived great facilities from his disguise as an Egyptian pilgrim. Landing at Borum, a small port about three days' sail to the East of Aden, he pursued a North-westerly direction into the interior. The furthest point attained was the village of Shana, on the edge of the great interior desert, near which is the remarkable quicksand by which, according to tradition, an invading army was entirely swallowed up. Wrede's description of this quicksand was one main cause of the scepticism with which his narrative was greeted on his return; its existence, however, so far at least as the testimony of the natives is concerned, is amply confirmed by the recent explorers. It is, according to him, of a grayish white, entirely different from the adjacent sand of the desert. From this point he pursued his journey toward the sea, his final departure being accelerated by his arrest and expulsion on suspicion of being a spy. His assumed character as an Egyptian created disgust in connection with the suspected designs of Mohammed Ali, and the English occupation of Aden four years previously had excited the utmost jealousy of every stranger. Nothing, according to our traveler, could exceed the detestation with which the English were then regarded—a feeling chiefly owing to religious fanaticism.

His description of the country near the sea agrees in the main with Munsinger's, as a land of stony ridges, terraced with strips of cultivation wherever practicable, and shadowing little oases of fertility where streams creep or wells bubble at their base, but in the main a desert. Further inland an open park-like tract, tolerably well timbered, slopes away to the great interior desert. The profusion of aromatic plants justifies the traditionary repute of the region, and



the agricultural industry of the inhabitants is creditable to them, the general rudeness of their condition being taken into account. They are divided into a number of petty tribes, possessing nothing like the political organization of the civilized Arabs of Nedjed or Oman, but the essential features of their character seems the same.

Particularly interesting are the traces of an era of far higher prosperity under the Himyaritic kings, by whom the magnificent reservoirs at Aden were constructed, and whose glory still dimly survives in the traditions of King Shedad. Wrede found that comparatively modern buildings were frequently reared on gigantic substructions of far higher antiquity, as is the case at Palmyra and Baalbec. Many Himyaritic inscriptions also exist, the most important of which, from Obne, is here published with an interpretation by the editor, who conjectures the date to have been 280 A. D.

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ANCIENT TIME PIECES.

BOWLS were used to measure time, from which water, drop by drop, was discharged through a small aperture. Such bowls were called water-clocks, (*clepsydrae*.) It was then observed how much water from such a bowl or cask, from sunrise till the shortest shadow, trickled down into another bowl placed beneath; and this time being the half of the whole solar day, was divided into six hours. Consequently, they took a sixth of the water which had trickled down, poured it into the upper bowl, and, this discharged, one hour had expired. But afterward a more convenient arrangement was made. They observed how high the water at each hour rose in the lower bowl, marked these points, and counted them, thus finding out how many hours there were till sunrise. With the Chinese, water-clocks, or *clepsydrae*, are very old. They used a round vessel, filled with water, with a little hole in the bottom, which was placed upon another vessel. When the water in the upper vessel pressed down into the lower vessel, it subsided by degrees, announcing thereby the parts of time elapsed. The Baby-

Ionians are said to have used such instruments; from them the Greeks of Asia Minor got them, at the time of King Cyrus, about the year 550 before Christ. The Romans did not get the first water-clock before the year 160 before Christ. But, though the hours of the clepsydrae did not vary in length, they still counted them from the morning. When the clock with us strikes seven, the ancients counted one; when the clock with us strikes twelve, the ancients counted six, and so forth. This method of counting the hour was, according to the New Testament, also customary in Palestine at the time of Christ. The water-clocks had that advantage, that they could be used in the night; and the Romans used them to divide their night watches, which were relieved four times, both summer and winter. Conformably to these four night-watches, time was counted, not only in Rome, but wherever Roman garrisons were stationed; consequently, also in Palestine, after she had become a Roman province. The first night-watch was called *vespera*, (evening,) from sunset to 9 o'clock; the second, *media nox*, (midnight,) from 9 o'clock to 2 o'clock; the third, *gallicinium*, (cock-crowing,) from 2 to 3 o'clock; and the fourth, *mane*, (morning,) from 3 o'clock to day-break.—*Old and New.*

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#### MARY'S LAMB WITH A NEW SAUCE.

"MARY'S LAMB" has at last fallen a victim to the prevailing irreverence of the times, and been sacrificed on the altar of nonsense. The simple story which has enlisted the sympathy and interest of so many generations of children, and has doubtless impressed its rather thin moral lesson upon their minds, has been perverted, and its hold upon their affections consequently endangered. It has gone the way of the thrilling and once popular story of Casabianca, the moral lesson of which is now distorted by the very homely implication that the boy would not go when his father called, "because he loved his peanuts so." But we must "pardon something to the spirit of liberty," and the spirit of fun. As Mary's Lamb is already in the market, perhaps it is not altogether an unpardonable sin to serve it up as food for

laughter, so the following contribution is added to the stock on hand :

Mary had a little lamb,  
And liked it very much ;  
It pleased her better far than birds,  
Or ducks and geese and such.

Whenever Mary came from school,  
Her mother quick she sought,  
And gave her not a moment's peace,  
Until her lamb was brought.

And every where that Mary went  
The lamb was sure to go,  
Because when asked if she'd have more,  
She never answered No.

What made dear Mary like the lamb,  
Does any one inquire ?  
Because she knew how good it was  
When roasted by the fire.

And when served up with good mint sauce,  
And fresh green peas you'll know  
How it is yourself, and understand  
Why Mary liked it so.

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HOW TO SPELL.—Often in writing a simple word is required, of the orthography of which the writer is not sure. The dictionary may be referred to, but it is not always convenient. An easy mode is to write the word on a piece of waste paper, in two or three ways of which you are in doubt. Nine times in ten, the mode which looks right is right. Spelling, particularly English spelling, is so completely a work of the eye, that the eye alone should be trusted. There is no reason why "receive" and "believe" should be spelled differently, yet sounded alike in their second syllables. Yet write them "recieve" and "beleive," and the eye shows you the mistake at once. The best way for young people, and indeed people of any age, to learn to spell is to practice writing. Cobbett taught his children grammar by requiring that they should copy their lessons two or three times. These lessons he himself gave them in the form of letters; and his French and English grammars are two of the most amusing books in the English language. Of course "learning to spell" came in incidentally.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—I am too old a stager in Magazine writing to be disturbed ordinarily by any typographical blunder be it never so atrocious, but in the biographical sketches of Eminent Educators deceased in 1870, contained in the March number of the "Educational Monthly" there occurred one, which regard for a venerable and able theological professor will not allow me to pass unnoticed. On page 127, 10th line from bottom, the name of Rev. JOHN T. PRESSLY, D. D., one of the ablest and most distinguished clergymen of the United Presbyterian Church, is given thus, PUPPLY, REV. JOHN T., D. D. Words fail me to do justice to that blunder.

Yours truly,

AUTHOR OF "EMINENT EDUCATORS DECEASED IN 1870."

NOTE.—"Words fail me" in suitably deprecating the style of penmanship too frequently practiced by certain of the "old stagers" who puzzle compositors and proof readers. Sometimes they would fail to translate their own hieroglyphics, if they were not "Yankees" at guessing. EDITOR.

## EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

PEABODY FUND.—The Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund distributed \$111,000 last year, in sums ranging from two hundred to two thousand dollars. Wherever the people of a district establish a school of 100 pupils and guarantee three-fourths of the expenses of the school, the Fund Committee pay the teacher's salary. By thus helping those who give proof of a sincere desire for schools, the committee have been instrumental in securing instruction for very many southern children. The fund, \$2,000,000, yields an income of about \$120,000. About \$10,000 of the income is reserved for extraordinary appropriations. A million and a half of Mississippi State bonds also belongs to the Fund, which, if paid, would add \$90,000 to the income annually. Dr. Sears has had great success in securing the co-operation of leading Southern men in behalf of education.

Senator Revels strongly opposes the forced association

of blacks and whites in the public schools, holding the sensible opinion that race prejudices will be aggravated rather than removed by laws designed to compel intermixture and social equality.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE.**—The Board of Trustees appointed by the legislature to organize and conduct a State Normal School, without any expense to the State, have accepted the proposal of the town of Plymouth, and have determined to locate the school in that place. The town offered its Academy and boarding-house, the latter capable of accommodating seventy-five boarders; \$5,000 for repairs; \$1,000 annually from the district school fund, and \$7,200 to be expended in conducting the school at the discretion of the Trustees, within the next five years.

**WEST VIRGINIA.**—The report of the General Superintendent shows that the increase of school houses during the year was 495 and that the whole number of school houses in 48 out of 53 counties in the state, is 2,113. The number of youth of school age in the State is 162,430, a gain of 11,483 over the number reported the year previous. The whole number of pupils attending schools during last year was 87,330, during the year previous 73,310, an increase for last year of 14,020. The average attendance during last year was 55,083, during the year previous 39,363, an increase for last year of 15,720. The permanent or irreducible school fund now on hand, amounts to \$254,860.17. The amount of moneys received during the year, for school purposes, was \$562,761; and the total value of school property in 48 out of the 53 counties, is \$1,057,473.94.

**MICHIGAN.**—The principal statistics of the Annual Report of the State Superintendent are as follows: Number of districts, 5,108; children of school age, 384,554; gain since the year before, 9,780; average months of attendance, 6.9; school-houses—stone 78, brick 538, frame 3,867, log 627, total value \$6,234,797; graded schools, 231; teachers—men 2,793, women 8,221; average monthly wages—males \$52.62, females \$27.31; private schools, 139; number attending them, 9,613; visits of County Superintendents, 6,621; of directors, 12,521; vol-

umes in school libraries, 150,826; paid for library books, \$16,770.88; voted for libraries, \$2,383.83.

LOUISIANA.—MR. THOMAS W. CONWAY, State Superintendent of Public Education in Louisiana, says that there is now in the State an efficient system of education which makes no distinction whatever between blacks and whites, and that the freedmen's schools are no longer necessary, but, on the contrary, they help to perpetuate the spirit of caste, and to keep the freedmen themselves from proper exertion, and the State from using the adequate means already under her control.

VIRGINIA.—The Committee of the Virginia Legislature has agreed that one-third of the Agricultural Land Scrip Fund shall be given to the colored people's college, and the remainder to the two State Colleges.

STRASBURG.—The German occupation of Strasburg has been promptly followed by the reorganization of Strasburg Academy, which has been raised to the rank of a University. The old professors have been retained for the most part, and will deliver their lectures in German hereafter. The endowment of the institution is to be increased, the design of the Germans being to make it a center of German influence for the conquered province.

CALCUTTA.—At the last examination of the Calcutta University, held in the beginning of this month, there were 1,905 candidates for the entrance examination, and 540 for the first examination in arts. The first entrance examination of the University was held in April, 1857, when there were 244 candidates. Every year has since shown a steady increase.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—Robert College, Constantinople, has 103 students, and 57 applicants have lately been refused admission from lack of room. The Sultan has presented to the founder, Mr. Roberts, the decoration of the Osmanieh, the highest order in Turkey.

THE *Scientific American* calls attention to the utter destitution of New York in respect of means of scientific education.

## CURRENT PUBLICATIONS.

REV. THOMAS K. BEECHER having been requested to write his opinion of certain School Books published by Messrs. A. S. Barnes & Co., takes occasion to commend "their aim, length, paper, print, pictures, and binding; their author, his enthusiasm, his success as a teacher, and his piety." He also explicitly says: "The books as they now stand, will be found, when used by ordinary teachers and average learners, pernicious in the extreme. They are inaccurate and inelegant, and I am sad when the publishers meet my criticisms with a triumphant boast that, bad or good, they have sold 'eighty thousand' of them."

It seems that the enterprising publishers have used the *first* part of his opinion as an advertisement—which Mr. Beecher considers "a trick of trade more smart than honest."

MESSRS. HARPER & BROTHERS have published a readable volume entitled "Our Girls," by Dio Lewis. It discusses, in a style peculiar to Dr. Lewis, girls' boots and shoes, how girls should walk, the language of dress, outrages upon the body, large *vs.* small women, idleness among girls, employments for women, false tests of gentility, piano music, study of French, dancing, sympathy between the stomach and the soul, sunshine and health, baths, home gymnasium, what to eat, amusements for girls, true education for girls, and heroic women.—"A Manual of Ancient History," from the earliest times to the fall of the Western Empire, by George Rawlinson, M. A. 634 pages.—"The Poetical Works of Alfred Tennyson, Poet Laureate." The illustrations are numerous and excellent. 308 pages.—"Notes, Explanatory and Practical, on the Acts of the Apostles," designed for Sunday-School teachers and Bible-classes, by Albert Barnes. Revised edition, illustrated. 418 pages.—"The Apple Culturist," a complete treatise for the practical Pomologist, by Sereno Edwards Todd. It is very fully illustrated with engravings of fruit, young and old trees, and mechanical devices employed in connection with orchards and the management of apples. 334 pages.

MESSRS. CHARLES SCRIBNER & CO. have added another volume to their Illustrated Library of Wonders,—"*Wonderful Escapes.*" It is revised from the French of F. Bernard, and some original chapters are added, by Richard Whiteing. Twenty-six illustrations. 308 pages.—"*The History of Greece,*" by Prof. Dr. Ernst Curtius. It is translated by Adolphus William Ward, M. A. Vol. I., 509 pages.—"*Chips from a German Work-shop,*" by F. Max Muller, M. A. Vol. III., Essays on Literature, Biography, and Antiquities. 492 pages.

THE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING COMPANY have issued "*A School History of the United States of America,*" from the earliest discoveries to the year 1870, by George F. Holmes, LL. D. It has an



Appendix, containing the Constitution of the United States, and the Declaration of Independence. It has several maps and many illustrations.—“An Elementary Algebra,” designed as an introduction to a thorough knowledge of Algebraic language, and to give beginners facility in the use of Algebraic symbols, by Charles S. Venable, LL.D., 318 pages, badly bound.

MESSRS. HURD & HOUGHTON have just published “From Fourteen to Four-score,” by Mrs. S. W. Jewett. 416 pages.

MR. E. STEIGER has just published Dr. Adolph Douai’s “Kindergarten Manual,” for the introduction of Fröbel’s System of Primary Education into Public Schools, and for the use of mothers and private teachers. The book is introduced by a recommendation of Thomas Hunter, President of the Normal College, New York City.

MESSRS. DODD & MEAD have published a very neat little book for the young, entitled “Max Kromer:” a Story of the Siege of Strasburg, 1870. 184 pages.

MESSRS. BURNS & CO., 33 Park Row, N. Y., have sent us “Reading Lessons in Steno-Phonography,” in accordance with Munson’s Complete Phonographer. It has special reference to the use of word-signs and formation of phrases, with directory for self-instruction. The book is prepared by Mrs. Eliza A. Burns, an experienced and skillful teacher of Phonography. Also the “Self-Instructor in Steno-Phonography,” being a full and reliable guide to the best method of Short-Hand Reporting.

ADRIAN J. EBELL, Ph. B., M. D., has published a little book entitled “Natural History,” Part I., a Text Book extending to a history of classes among animals. 96 pages, price 50 cts.

MR. A. E. KRÖGER, St Louis, Mo., has translated from the German, “A New Exposition of the Science of Knowledge, by J. G. Fichte.” Paper binding, 182 pages.

CHAS. C. CHATFIELD & CO., New Haven, have published No. 5 of their University Series of Pamphlets—“Scientific Addresses,” by Prof. John Tyndall: 1. On the Methods and Tendencies of Physical Investigation; 2. On Haze and Dust; 3. On the Scientific use of the Imagination. 74 pages.

MESSRS. E. H. BUTLER & Co. have been induced, through the remarkable success of the small series of Mitchell’s New Outline Maps, to prepare a LARGER series of Mitchell’s Outline Maps, combining the political and physical features. The Map of North America, of this series is now ready. If we may be allowed to judge from this, the series will be superior, and will merit the attention of teachers and school officers. Its size is a happy hit; its beauty and accuracy are not surpassed. The moderate price fixed for the set will, we think, be appreciated.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND ARTS (Professors Dana and Silliman, New Haven, Conn.), for March, contains: "Discovery of Actual Glaciers on the mountains of the Pacific Slope, by Clarence King; Contributions from the Laboratory of the Lawrence Scientific School; Some Rocks and other Dredgings from the Gulf Stream, by S. P. Sharples; Calorimetric Investigations, by R. Bunsen; The Porcelain Rock of China, by Richthofen; Notes on Granitic Rocks, by T. S. Hunt; The Geology of the Eastern Uintah Mountains, by O. C. Marsh; and several other sterling articles." The Scientific Intelligence is as usual full, and interesting.

LITERATURE OF THE WAR.—The close of the gigantic struggle which has absorbed almost all other interests during the past eight months, naturally creates inquiry for the best connected account of a series of strategic successes that have not been surpassed since the campaigns of Julius Cæsar. In response to this demand, MacMillan has issued in a single volume the war correspondence of the London *Daily News*, undoubtedly the best record in our own language of the masterly movements of Von Moltke.

For pictorial representations our readers will not need to be reminded of the striking sketches published in the *Graphic*, some of the best of which have been reproduced in *Every Saturday*, and in Harper's *Weekly*. But for our German population and the increasing class of students of German literature, the best work that has come under our notice is that issued by the great Leipzig publishing house of J. J. Weber—"Die Illustrierte Kriegs-Chronik" (The Illustrated War Chronicle). We have already referred to this serial work. The numbers which we have since received fully sustain our former criticism. Unlike the English illustrated papers, this chronicle, as its title indicates, is expressly devoted to the war. Although the time has not yet come for an impartial and exhausting history of the Franco-Prussian conflict, we are satisfied from a careful perusal of its contents, that the chronicle aims at a truthful and accurate statement of facts, presented in clear and convincing language. The engravings, which are designed to be in the best style, embrace every thing that illustrates the course of events. The comparatively low price will ensure a large sale, and for our German friends we can recommend no publication so satisfactory. It may be obtained of B. Westermann & Co., New York.

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### MISCELLANEA.

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DR. JOHN S. HART, Principal of the New Jersey State Normal School, has resigned; because engagements "less confining and more remunerative" have been pressed upon him.

THE Board of Education of the City of Brooklyn have had quite a lively time in adjusting their "Book business." At a recent meeting

of the Board, one of the members upbraided Mr. Kinsella for having advocated, sometime ago, the Arithmetics published by A. S. Barnes & Co., and having changed his mind—now urging the adoption of those published by the Messrs. Appleton, of whom he had spoken so differently a year ago. Thereupon Mr. Kinsella said: "In regard to having changed his opinion respecting some of the publishers, he was frank enough to admit that anything he had said on former occasions against the Messrs. Appleton, was mainly owing to data he had received from Messrs. Barnes & Co. The conduct of the Messrs. Appleton at their worst had been better than that of the Messrs. Barnes at their best. [Sensation.]"

RECENT DISCOVERIES.—Among the most important discoveries of the German arctic expedition was a new land, about thirty-six nautical miles east of Spitzbergen, and situated north of the seventy-seventh degree of latitude north. The new territory is larger than Spitzbergen, and presents a very wild and rugged appearance, being filled with almost perpendicular mountains and cliffs.

COULDN'T BE DUNNED—The other day a Montreal tailor sent his bill to a magazine editor. He was startled a few hours afterward by its being returned with the note appended, "Your manuscript is respectfully declined."

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## SCIENTIFIC.

A GERMAN telegraph operator has discovered a mode of sharpening, with mathematical accuracy, any number of steel or iron wires, by the agency of the magnetic current. The discovery may be applied to the manufacture of pins and needles, and do away with the present process of grinding the points, so injurious and extensively fatal to the workmen.

A FRENCH savant is said to have invented a method of preserving paleontological specimens. All fossil bones, upon being exposed to the air, are apt to fall away into dust. To prevent this, it is proposed to form over them a solution of silicate of potash. The liquid is absorbed immediately, and thoroughly hardens the objects.

THE construction of the railway destined to connect Arequipa with Puno and Cusco has just been commenced at its culminating point, five thousand yards above the level of the sea, which is double the height of the highest existing railway. At this elevation the air is only half as dense as it is at the level of the ocean.

A PROPOSITION is on foot for laying a new trans-Atlantic cable, which is to be smaller and lighter than those heretofore used. It is estimated that the cost of the cable will not exceed £250,000. A scheme for connecting England with all her colonies by telegraph is talked of.

THE fall of a large mass of rock between Heidelberg and Wiesloch has brought to light the works of a silver mine which was known to the ancient Romans. There is no silver ore of any importance left, but a very rich zinc ore is met with in large quantities.